

**FORM FOR TABLING A QUESTION FOR  
WRITTEN ANSWER (Rule 130)**

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**Priority question**

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**SUBJECT:** The unbalanced composition of the European Science and Technology Network on  
(please specify) Unconventional Hydrocarbon Extraction

**TEXT:**

It has been report by the Guardian[1] that environmentalist groups have walked out of the European Science and Technology Network on Unconventional Hydrocarbon Extraction Advice, an expert panel on unconventional hydrocarbons, which is expected to inform the European Commission's future decisions on the exploration of shale gas in Europe. They claim that the expert group has been taken over by industry groups who are using it as a platform to promote fracking.

Taking these claims into account,

1- How does the European Commission explain that out of the 60 external members participating in the Network, more than 40% represent the fracking industry and only 10% represent civil-society organisations? Is the European Commission convinced that this will lead to a balanced discussion on fracking?

2 - How does the European Commission explain that it is advised by an unbalanced Network on a highly sensitive issue such as fracking?

3 - Why has the European Commission ignored the recommendations of the European Ombudsman on expert groups?

[1] <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/apr/15/green-groups-accuse-eu-shale-gas-panel-of-fracking-lobby-takeover>

Signature(s):

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